

Brief Catechism on Fatima



- The Apparitions at Fatima
- The Secret of Fatima
- The Third Secret & the Crisis in the Church
- Practicing Devotion to the Immaculate Heart



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Edition I



Lesson I — **The Apparitions at Fatima**

1. Where is Fatima?

Fatima is a village in the very center of Portugal about 70 miles North of Lisbon. It is near Fatima, in the Cova da Iria, that the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared in 1917 with a most important message for the Catholic Church in Modern times.

2. To whom did Our Lady appear at Fatima?

Our Lady appeared to three shepherd children, Lucia de los Santos, aged 10, Francisco Marto, aged 9, and Jacinta Marto, aged 7. Lucia was the youngest of 7 and Francisco and Jacinta were brother and sister, the 8th and 9th of 9 children and Lucia's cousins.

3. Who is the Guardian Angel of Portugal?

Just as every person has a Guardian Angel, so every country has a Guardian angel. The Guardian Angel of Portugal appeared several times to Lucia and her 2 Cousins Francesco and Jacinta to prepare them for the visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

4. What prayer did the Angel teach the children?

The Angel taught the children to pray like this: “*O my God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love Thee, I ask pardon for all those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love Thee.*” After repeating it 3 times, he said: “*Pray thus. The Hearts of Jesus and Mary are attentive to the voice of your supplications.*”

5. How did the Angel teach the children to worship the Blessed Sacrament?

The Angel brought the Blessed Sacrament before them, suspending it in the air, and he taught them to adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament saying this prayer: “*Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I offer Thee the Most Precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, present in all the Tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the sacrileges, outrages and indifference by which He Himself is offended. And through the infinite merits of His most Sacred Heart, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I pray for the conversion of poor sinners.*”

6. When did the Blessed Virgin Mary appear to the three children?

Our Lady appeared to the three children in 6 months in a row from May 1917 to October 1917. We can see that Mary wants to crush Satan’s head, for Protestantism was founded in 1517, and Freemasonry was founded in 1717 and Communism began with the October Revolution in 1917.

7. What are the main things that Our Lady taught the children?

Our Lady showed the children a terrible vision of hell, the just punishment of God for all those who die in mortal sin. She taught the children the merciful plan of God to save souls from hell by reparatory devotion to her Immaculate Heart. She urged them to pray the Rosary daily in a spirit

of reparation to her Immaculate Heart and to appease God who is so much offended by the sins of men.

8. What message did Our Lady give to the children?

Our Lady gave a Message to the children consisting in three parts, to be revealed successively to the world through the hierarchy of the Church.

9. Was there any miracle to prove that the Fatima Message is truly from God?

Yes, on August 17, 1917, Our Lady promised the children that she would give them a sign to prove the truth of her message. On October 13, 1917, while Our Lady appeared to the children, a crowd of 70,000 people witnessed the Sun become a pale opaque silver colored disk visible to the naked eye. It began to whirl and dance, emit a rainbow swirl of colors, and then suddenly to fall upon the people, making them cry out and make acts of contrition. It then gently swerved back to its normal celestial orbit. This miracle with its atmospheric phenomena was publicly recorded, photographs of the crowd included, in two newspapers which had previously published articles skeptical and critical of the Fatima apparitions.





Lesson II – The Secret of Fatima

10. Why is the message called the Secret of Fatima?

It is also called the Secret of Fatima, because it was at first given by Our Lady to Lucia in great secrecy, only to be revealed later. The first 2 parts of the secret were revealed between 1917 and 1929. In 1944 Our Lady told Lucia she should give the third part of the Secret to the Hierarchy. It is also called the Secret of Fatima because this most serious part has not yet been revealed to the world even though Our Lady requested that it be revealed by 1960.

11. What is the first part of the Secret of Fatima?

The first part of the Secret of Fatima was the vision of Hell and the explanation of God's desire to establish throughout the world devotion to the

Immaculate Heart of Mary as a privileged means of saving souls, especially by means of the Rosary.

12. What is the second part of the Secret of Fatima?

On June 13th, 1929, Our Lady appeared to Lucia, then a Religious Sister in Tuy Spain and said: “*The moment has come when God asks the Holy Father to make, in union with all the bishops of the world, the consecration of Russia to my Immaculate Heart, promising to save it by this means. ... So numerous are the souls which the justice of God condemns for sins committed against Me that I come to ask for reparation. Sacrifice yourself for this intention and pray.*” And Our Lady promised the end of persecutions in Russia if the Pope obeyed!

13. Did the Catholic Hierarchy obey Our Lady’s request to consecrate Russia to her Immaculate Heart?

No, Pope Pius XI and Pope Pius XII chose not to follow Our Lady’s request because they did not want to be influenced in their policies vis a vis the political powers of their times. While these ministers were good Popes who were sound in Catholic Doctrine, unfortunately, by some design of Divine Providence, they did not obey Our Lady. This would prepare the way for the refusal of later Popes to reveal the Third Secret by 1960.

14. When was the Third Secret written down?

In 1944, Sr. Lucia, despite three months of spiritual trials and difficulties — which were alleviated only by a special apparition of Our Lady — wrote the Third Secret down on a single piece of paper in 25 lines and handed it to the Bishop of Fatima, who could either reveal it or communicate it to the Cardinal of Lisbon. The Secret was eventually passed on to Rome but was never revealed to the world as Our Lady had requested.



Lesson III — **The Third Secret & the Crisis in the Church**

15. Can we know the contents of the Third Secret?

Though it has not yet been revealed by the Catholic hierarchy, we can know the contents because we know its context, the circumstances of its writing, the date it was supposed to be revealed, and the reactions and statements of many who read it.

16. What is the context of the Third Secret of Fatima?

The Secret is in three parts, the first two of which concern the salvation of souls and the conversion of Russia, while the concluding words tell us that the Dogma of faith will always be preserved in Portugal, and that Russia would finally be consecrated, and that a period of peace would be given to the world. This clearly implies that:

- a) Faith will be endangered by Russia spreading its errors throughout the world, including in the Church itself,
- b) Russia will not be consecrated until politics with Communism have been abandoned,
- c) terrible wars and persecutions will occur.

17. What were the circumstances of the writing of the Secret?

The Secret was written down in great turmoil and anguish of soul, such that Lucia needed a special visit of Our Lady to enable her to commit the secret to writing. This tells us that it must be a very serious matter indeed. Pope John Paul II supported this clue since he once said that it was not advisable to reveal the Third Secret just as it would not be advisable to reveal a universal flood that would kill millions of people.

18. Why is 1960 so significant?

Our Lady said it should be revealed by 1960 because it would be more evident by that time. As a result, many Catholics worldwide were waiting for the revelation of the Third Secret in 1960, and they were profoundly disappointed that it was not revealed. This time was chosen because the world began to change in an unprecedented manner in the 1960s. In other words, as Fatima experts have affirmed, the Third Secret is being fulfilled now in our times.

19. What were the principal changes of the 1960s?

In the world, there was the sexual revolution, promoted by Rock n Roll and Television, whereby men and women were put on the same footing, and which would lead to the increase of every form of immorality, including homosexuality. In the Church, there was the Second Vatican Council which took place from 1962 – 1965 and which profoundly modified Catholic belief, ceremony and morals to the extent of being a true revolution of thought and practice.

20. Why did the Popes since 1960 not reveal the Third Secret?

The Popes since 1960 have said that the secret was not for our times and would not be understood by men today, as it would provoke some kind of mass hysteria. In the final analysis, the Consecration of Russia requires that the Popes abandon the policy of compromise with Communism. Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary requires that the Popes abandon Ecumenism with non-Catholics. But the Popes have not wanted to abandon these Vatican II policies. This is why Sr. Lucia began to speak of a “*diabolical disorientation*” taking place within the Church.

21. What are the chief testimonies of experts who have read the Third Secret?

- Though Lucia could not reveal the Secret, she did tell Fr. Augustin Fuentes in 1957 that it did not consist in wars and temporal punishments, but that the Secret entailed a special diabolic attack upon Priestly and religious souls. In the 1980s, Sr. Lucia said: “*The chastisement predicted by Our Lady had already begun*”
- The renowned expert on Fatima, Fr. Alonso, said that since the Secret concluded by saying that the dogma would be preserved in Portugal, there was an implication it would be lost everywhere else, with the positive duplicity of the Roman Catholic Clergy.

22. What are the chief testimonies of high ranking clergy who have read the Third Secret?

- In 1984, the Bishop of Fatima, Alberto Cosme do Amaral said: “*Its content (Third Secret's) concerns only our faith ... the loss of Faith of a continent is worse than the annihilation of a nation; and it is truth that Faith is continually diminishing in Europe.*”

- In 1995, Cardinal Ciappi, who had been Papal theologian to 5 Popes over 40 years said: “*In the Third Secret it is foretold, among other things, that the great apostasy in the Church begins at the top.*”

23. What then is the essential meaning of the Third Secret of Fatima?

Clearly, the Third Secret treats of a worldwide crisis in the Catholic Faith starting from the top levels of the Catholic clergy and working down. It is clearly a warning against the changes made by the Catholic hierarchy over the past 45 years in Catholic teaching, liturgy and morals, and a severe judgment upon the devastating effects these changes cause by the loss of so many souls. “*To save them, God wants to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart.*”





Lesson IV —

Practicing Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

24. Why is Devotion to Mary necessary for every Baptized person?

Devotion to Mary is necessary for the Baptized because by Baptism we become members of Jesus Christ and we must imitate Him. But Christ honored Mary, obeyed her as His Mother and made her Queen over His Kingdom. Therefore we too must honor her, obey her as our Mother and serve her as our Queen.

25. How do we practice reparatory devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary?

We practice this devotion chiefly by the practice of the Five First Saturdays, by saying the Rosary every day and by wearing the Scapular, and by having the intention to make reparation to the Immaculate Heart in all our undertakings and sufferings.

26. In what does the Devotion of the Five First Saturdays consist?

The 5 first Saturdays consists in 4 things:

- 1) Confession within 8 days,
- 2) Communion of Reparation on the First Saturday,
- 3) Recitation of the 5 Mysteries of the Rosary,
- 4) Meditation on the mysteries of the Rosary by keeping Our Lady company for 15 minutes.

It must be remembered that this devotion is accompanied by the incredible promise of Our Lady to Sr. Lucia: *"I promise to assist them at the hour of death with all the graces necessary for the salvation of their soul."*

27. How does the 5 first Saturdays make reparation to the Immaculate Heart?

The Five First Saturdays were requested by Our Lady to make reparation for 5 sins against her Immaculate Heart:

- 1) For blasphemies committed against her Immaculate Conception.
- 2) For blasphemies committed against her perpetual Virginity.
- 3) For blasphemies committed against her Divine Maternity.
- 4) For blasphemies of those who seek to sow indifference, scorn or hatred of Mary in the hearts of children.
- 5) For blasphemies committed by those who outrage her in her images.

28. How does saying the Rosary daily make reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary?

Saying the Rosary daily makes reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary because at Fatima she requested the Church to say the Rosary daily for the salvation of souls. Thus, it is an act of obedience to Mary. Furthermore, by praying the Rosary devoutly, we learn to hate and overcome our sins, and to love and imitate Christ.

29. What is signified by wearing the Scapular?

By wearing the Scapular we show the world a sign of our Catholic Faith, we show God a sign of our devotion to Our Lady, and it is a sacramental of her promise to help us now and at the hour of our death. We should also remember the Scapular promise that no one wearing the Scapular at the hour of death will be allowed to perish eternally in the fires of hell. By Mary's intercession, the soul will receive the succor of Grace to make the acts of Faith, Hope and Charity necessary to salvation.

30. Are there any other special acts of reparatory Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary?

While any act of Devotion done with the intention of making Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary is an act of reparatory devotion to Mary, there are two of greater importance:

- a) Consecration of the Home to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
- b) Total Consecration of oneself to Jesus Christ through Mary as her slave according to the method of St. Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort.

31. How do we consecrate our homes to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary?

The Consecration of the home to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary is a devotion promoted by 4 Popes of the XXth century and consists in asking a Priest to preside over the Ceremony of Consecration in one's home. The Ceremony should be prepared by 3 days of prayer and involves the enthronement of the images of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary in one's home.

32. What must we do to prepare for the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary?

To prepare for the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, we should consecrate ourselves to Mary Immaculate and become members of the Mi-

litia Immaculatae so that with her we can win many victories against the world, the flesh and the devil. The Militia Immaculatae is a Marian movement by which souls consecrate themselves to Mary to become her instruments for the salvation and sanctification of all souls.

33. What are members of the Militia Immaculatae obliged to do?

- They consecrate themselves to Our Lady and renew this Consecration often.
- They wear or at least bear on their person the Miraculous Medal.
- They say the MI prayer at least once daily.
- They do something for Our Lady for the salvation of souls according to their inspiration, abilities, time, and talents.

Let us remember to pray for the Pope and Bishops to consecrate Russia to Our Lady's Immaculate Heart, for world Peace, the reform of the Church and the salvation of many souls depends upon this.

“In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph. The Holy Father will consecrate Russia to Me, and she will be converted, and a period of peace will be granted to the world.”





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